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intensity of the tone. The amount of rotation is measured by the deflection of a small mirror, as in a reflecting galvanometer. The tube in which the bit of mica hangs is closed at one end by a thin rubber diaphragm, and at the other by a piston, by means of which it can be adjusted to tones of different pitch. Cuts of the phonometer and curves representing the intensity of the tone of sounding pipes under different conditions are given, but the formulæ for exactly connecting the amount of deflection with the intensity of the sound have not yet been reached.

*Esperienze sopra i corpuscoli Vater-Pacini del mesenterio di gatto.*  
FUBINI. Annali universali di Medic. e Chirurgia, Nov. 1887,  
noted in La Psichiatria, An. V, fasc. 4.

The experimenter spread the intestines and mesentery of a chloroformed cat upon a warmed glass plate, and after the animal had regained consciousness, stimulated the nerves of the Pacinian bodies. He took the dilation of the pupils as an index of painful sensation, and used for comparison those produced by the stimulation of a nerve of general sensibility. After testing with electrical, mechanical, chemical and thermal stimuli, he concludes, from the similarity of the pupil reactions in the two cases, that it is to the nerves of general sensibility that the Pacinian bodies belong. Such a relation has before been conjectured, but it cannot be held as yet demonstrated, if this experimenter has been fully reported. The responses of the pupils are too indirect and general an indication to establish the identity of the sensations in the two cases.

*Influence dégénérative de l'alcool sur la descendance.* A. MAIRET and  
COMBEMALE. Compt. Rend. CVI, p. 667, March 5, 1888.

These investigators, in prosecuting a research upon chronic intoxication in animals, have made a few very interesting preliminary experiments on the effect of alcohol on offspring. For the first experiment a vigorous and intelligent shepherd dog was given daily through a period of eight months, increasing doses of 72° absinth till he received 11 gr. per day per kilo of weight. This treatment produced hallucinations, illusions and dementia, with general paralytic troubles. When in this condition, but in a period when dosing was suspended, he was given access to a young, vigorous and intelligent female. She bore twelve pups; two were born dead, and none outlived 67 days. Three died from accident. The other seven suffered variously from epileptiform attacks, verminous enteritis, pulmonary and peritoneal tuberculosis, and besides, from lesions to be directly attributed to alcoholic degeneration—thickening of the skull, *sutures précoces*, adhesions of the dura mater to the skull, difference in weight of the two hemispheres, and fatty degeneration of the liver. The mother herself remained well. In the second experiment, a strong and intelligent spaniel bitch was given, during the last twenty-three days of gestation, from 2.75 to 5.75 grams of 72° absinth per kilo of weight. She first bore four pups, three alive and one dead, and, thirty-six hours later, two more dead. Of the three living ones, two were well formed but unintelligent; the third, a bitch, was less well developed, lazy, greedy, ungraceful in motion, short-winded, and too dull of smell to find her food in the

dark. The offspring of this degenerate creature, though sired by a vigorous and intelligent dog, show the effect of the alcohol in the third generation. No absinth at all was given, but of the three pups that she bore, one died in a few hours, was club-footed, had several atrophied toes, deviation of the apex of the heart to the right, and other physical anomalies. Another died five days old, very thin and athreptic, with the foramen of Botal still open. And the third at fifty days of age was reported intelligent, but is touched with *carreau* and has atrophy of the hind quarters. The degeneration is in this case, therefore, greater in the third than in the second generation.

E. C. S.

### III.—ABNORMAL.

*Apraxia and Aphasia.* Dr. M. ALLEN STARR. Medical Record, Oct. 27, 1888.

The possibility of successful surgical treatment of many brain troubles has given an immense significance to all mental symptoms that can point to the seat of the lesion. It is with the practical aim of stimulating the observation and recording of such symptoms that Dr. Starr makes his exposition of apraxia, aphasia, and related states. The term "apraxia" is relatively new in neurology, and is used to cover a class of mental disturbances of which "psychic blindness" and "psychic deafness" are the best known examples. The physical basis of the concept of any object is an associated group of the residua of the sense impressions of it, retained in the various sensory centres of the brain. As the result of localized brain disease, one or more of these centres may be destroyed, or suffer a more or less complete severance of its connections with the rest. If the disease affects the visual factor, the patient may be able to see an object before him, but only know by inference from its giving utterance to a human voice that it is a human being. Or if the disease affects the auditory factor, he may be able to hear and recognize music, but not to understand words said to him. Apraxia is, in general, the "inability to recognize the use or import of an object"; and there may be as many forms of it as there are senses. Like aphasia, it is caused, so far as known, only by disease on the left hemisphere in the right-handed. In every educated person there is beside this concept-group, a word-group associated with it and made up of the residua of sensations connected with the heard, spoken, seen, and written word. By disease of the elements of this group the various aphasias, word-deafness, word-blindness, agraphia, etc., are produced; by the severing of some of its connections, paraphasia. The author gives a brief account of these, with a schedule of the points to be examined in making a diagnosis of them; also two tables analysing 15 cases of apraxia, and four cases from his own observation of word-deafness, word-blindness, paraphasia, etc. The article gives in brief space much matter of interest to the psychologist.

*Versuch einer Darstellung unserer heutigen Kenntnisse in der Lehre von der Aphasie.* ERNST MALACHOWSKI. No. 324 in Volkmann's Sammlung klinischer Vorträge.

A great point in such a presentation is clearness, and in this the author succeeds admirably. With a frequent use of schematic